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WHITE PINE WEEVIL

The white pine weevil is probably one of the most serious pests of young evergreens. The characteristic injury is the withering or dying of the leader or central branch of the small tree. This injury usually occurs in mid-summer. The damage is caused by small, stout, white grubs which are easily found in the galleries or cells just under the bark of the infested leader. The attack is usually confined to pine and spruce. The most serious loss caused by this insect occurs in young trees. After the trees have reached a height of ten feet or more, the damage gradually disappears.

The adult form of this insect is a rather small reddish-brown, irregularly white marked weevil about one-fourth of an inch long. The winter is spent as adults in rubbish, or in any material which may give shelter. They become active in the early spring, and are more or less abundant throughout the summer season. In small plantings probably the best method of control is the removal and burning of the infested leaders as soon as they are noticed.

It is, also practical to collect the weevils from small plantings. This should be done by beginning early in the spring, and repeating at three to five day intervals until practically no weevils are captured. An ordinary insect net, or an ordinary umbrella may be used for this purpose. The collected beetles may be killed by dropping them into a little kerosene and water. Small, valuable individual trees on lawns may be protected by placing mosquito bar over them. This cover should be placed rather early in the spring, and then removed after a few weeks.

In a large planting it is recommended that the planting be made moderately thick and of mixed varieties. In this case the trees which have the leaders killed back by the weevils will be replaced by the trees which escape, and thus but little time will be lost in the development of the plantation.